



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ **# of Students DIRECTLY involved:** _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Proposal #12
Word Work Works Wonders!

Project Description: We are requesting 6 sets (1 per teacher) of "Hand 2 Mind" Advancing Phonics Word Work- Small Group Sets, each costing \$89.99, for a total of \$539.94. Each teacher can utilize these in small group settings to teach and reinforce grade level word study standards, as well as to support students in filling in particular gaps they have in their phonics skills. Each kit includes 6 magnetic/dry erase trays, 112 letter/sound tiles, as well as 5 additional mats that support blending, sound matching, etc.

1. **Rationale:** This grant directly supports the district initiative of improving literacy. Learning how to read is incredibly complex, but the science of reading is founded on the "simple view of reading" which is as follows:

$$\text{decoding} + \text{language comprehension} = \text{reading comprehension}$$

The "decoding" portion of this equation (ie sounding out words) is the piece of "learning how to read" that this grant will directly support. By the time children are in 3rd grade, their needs vary greatly with regards to decoding. Some children are on grade level and need to learn grade-level standards such as adding prefixes and suffixes. Many children have a variety of gaps in their decoding abilities, making small group word work all-important because it allows teachers to focus on the particular phonics needs of particular groups of students. These Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work sets will provide the teacher with the ready-to-go materials needed to pull small groups and teach each group exactly what they need in order to fill their particular gaps and/or support grade-level learning. The current science of reading research supports that children need practice building words in order to solidify their understanding of the many patterns in our language. In order for children to build words, teachers need ready access to lots of letters and they need a system for keeping those letters organized in order to maximize their time with students. The Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work sets provide the needed materials in an organized and motivating system- children love working with magnets, and will love using these materials to learn!

2. **Goals:** We expect that each 3rd and 4th grade student will improve by at least 1 level in their phonics knowledge according to the *Words their Way* Spelling Inventory. The expectation is that each 3rd and 4th grade teacher will work with children in small groups weekly, and that a portion of that small group time will be

devoted to word work involving children building words with the magnetic tiles based on data from assessments.

3. **Plan of Operation:** Materials will be purchased this summer. At the beginning of the school year, 3rd and 4th grade teachers will be trained on how to administer the *Words their Way* Spelling Inventory with fidelity. Then, they will administer it to the students in August or September. Teachers will then receive training on how to score their students' responses and the writers of this grant will create a spreadsheet with all of the 3rd and 4th grade students' names on it and which level they are at at the beginning of the year. This will be accomplished by the end of September. By the end of October, teachers will then be trained on how to form small groups based on the data and how to use the Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work Sets in a way that will promote phonics learning. By the end of October, parents will be notified of their child's strengths and weaknesses in phonics and will be told about how the use of the Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work Sets are being used to support their child's learning. Teachers will then use the materials to teach word work to children by pulling small groups each week. Teachers will administer the *Words their Way* Spelling Inventory again at the middle of the year (December/January) and at the end of the year (April/May) so that teachers can track progress. Teachers will meet once middle of year data has been collected to discuss student growth in the area of phonics knowledge and whether our use of the materials needs to be adjusted in any way and if additional training on the materials is needed. If it is determined that additional training needed, it will be scheduled at that time). All data points will be added to the spreadsheet referenced earlier.
4. **Communication and Dissemination:** The Foundation will be invited to come observe a word work small group lesson, including opportunities to take photos. We would be more than willing to present our grant at any meetings. At the end of the year, we will share results with the Waco ISD Literacy Cohort, which one of the grant writers is a member of.
5. **Evaluation:** We will know if the use of the Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work Sets was effective if over 70% of children (excluding those who have dyslexia or an identified learning disability in reading) who started out the year at below 3rd grade level in phonics according to the *Words their Way* Spelling Inventory increase by at least 1 full level by the end of the year.
6. **Long-Term Implications:** The materials being requested will last for years to come. Assuming that the materials are indeed effective at closing children's gaps

in their phonics knowledge, then teachers will be able to continue to use the materials in the same way with future students beyond the 25-26 school year. In addition, for each child whose phonics knowledge is improved by the use of these materials, the gains are immeasurable. When a child can more efficiently sound out words, they then have more brain power available for comprehension. These children will forever benefit from having their phonics gaps closed and being closer to grade level faster.

7. **Key Personnel:** The main grant writer listed on the Cover Sheet will ensure that all materials are ordered and that all trainings referenced above are accomplished with fidelity. In addition, she will ensure that opportunities for the Foundation to come observe and/or take photos are communicated and that results are communicated at the end of the year via the Waco ISD Literacy Cohort. The 2nd grant writer listed on the cover sheet will ensure that materials arrive and are prepared and distributed to the proper teachers. The 2 teachers will work together to ensure the spreadsheet gets completed by all 3rd and 4th grade teachers at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.
8. **Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:** We currently have 3 third grade teachers who teach reading and 3 fourth grade teachers who teach reading, so we are ordering 6 of the Hand 2 Mind Phonics Word Work Sets (see line 21 of the Budget Form). Each set costs \$89.99 on Amazon, totaling \$539.94. (Note: they are currently on sale for \$79.99, so if that is still the price when they are ordered, then we will give any leftover funds back to the Foundation). There will be no shipping charges.

Waco Education Foundation
Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	12
Project Title:	Word Work Works Wonders!
Number of Students Served by Grant:	132

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
6	Hand 2 Mind Advancing Pho	Y	\$539.94	0	\$ -	\$ 539.94
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 539.94		\$ -	\$ 539.94
Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 539.94		4.090454545	\$ -	\$ 539.94